

Notice of Availability

Draft Environmental Assessment Gaviota Bridge Replacement Project Federal Emergency Management Agency

Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works (County) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funding to replace the bridge over Gaviota Creek along Gaviota Beach Road, leading to Hollister Ranch and Gaviota State Beach Park. The bridge and road are located on County right-of-way in the State Park. The existing bridge has inadequate capacity and was damaged by flood flows in 1998, creating a public safety hazard for residents of Hollister Ranch and visitors to the State Park. The County proposes to replace the existing bridge with a 250-foot-long bridge that would be raised above the 100-year flood elevation to provide year-round reliable access. Gaviota Beach Road would also be raised above the floodplain. The project would be constructed over an 18-month period during 2006-2007.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and FEMA's implementing regulations. The DEA, which evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed project, is available for public review and comment. The DEA is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. A copy of the DEA may also be viewed at the following location: Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

To request a copy of the document or to provide comments regarding the DEA, please direct queries to the following address: Environmental Officer, FEMA Region IX, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607.

Comments on the DEA must be submitted by September 27, 2005. Until that date, FEMA will take no further action regarding the proposed project.